

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 23
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-24-13

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 23 opens drift gillnetting in Drift Gillnet Area 1 of the Central District and in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict on Thursday, July 25, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

This drift gillnet fishing period is being restricted to allow coho salmon to migrate through the Central District. The Little Susitna coho salmon escapement goal has been missed in the last four years. If missed again, it would likely become a stock of concern. This action is consistent with the Upper Cook Inlet 2013 Outlook, which stated ADF&G is very cognizant of recent coho salmon escapement shortages and subsequent restrictions on various fisheries that harvest this stock may take place. These restrictions may include limiting the drift gillnet fleet to less fishing area and/or reducing the amount of drift fishing time.

Drifters are reminded that because set gillnetting is closed in the Upper Subdistrict that drifting within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River is closed until further notice.

On July 24, 2013 the Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries staff estimated the total Kenai River sockeye salmon run through July 23 to be 2.8 million fish. The final run to the Kenai River is projected to range between 3.4 million and 3.8 million sockeye salmon.

With this inseason assessment, commercial fisheries management remains within the current guidelines for run sizes between 2.3 and 4.6 million Kenai River sockeye salmon. This means no change in the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal of 1.0 million to 1.2 million fish.